MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Lalu Prasadji.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2006-07

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2006-07.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2006

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have taken this time off to pay attention to what I consider one of the most important steps that we are taking collectively as people of this nation. For far too long, we have never looked at children in their own identities and as independent entities — we have always parcelled them away with women, written off their futures — even as we don't taken into consideration their many needs and their requirement for us to make amendments in this Act. I am grateful to the Lok Sabha Members who were kind enough for granting approval to the proposed Amendment Bill. Sir, by the year 2020, if you look at India and look at the global statistics on a macro level, what was always considered a liability of this nation, the population, will be truly the real avatar of human resource. By 2020, India will play host to the largest youngest work force in the world. India will play host and home to all these children. Now, when a scenario like that is coming up, we must pay attention to laying the foundation for a fantastic nation that will remain as the first amongst equals.